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Weardale

Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health—G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—R. G. SUDDICK, Cert. R.S.I., Lond.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year)	9,050
Area (In Acres)	99,652
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid 1955) ...	3,091
Rateable Value (Mid 1955)	£62,744
Product of Penny Rate	£238 8s 4d.

VITAL STATISTICS**LIVE BIRTHS**

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	94	54	40
Illegitimate	1	1	—
	<hr/> 95 <hr/>	<hr/> 55 <hr/>	<hr/> 40 <hr/>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			10.5
General Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Mid 1955)			15.0

STILL-BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	6	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 6 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 4 <hr/>
Rate per 1,000 (live and still)			11.16

DEATHS

	Total	Males	Females
	128	71	57
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			14.14
Death Rate (England and Wales)			11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000

live births	...	...	52.63
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	24.9
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 6 Years

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate under 1 year	Birth Rate
1950	15.05	25.00	13.10
1951	18.03	64.18	12.20
1952	13.73	20.20	10.88
1953	13.83	—	11.08
1954	16.37	18.10	12.08
1955	14.14	52.63	10.50

CAUSES OF DEATHS

			Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	1	0
2	Tuberculosis Other	..	0	0
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	0	0
4	Diphtheria	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	0	0
9	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	..	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	2	1
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	4	0
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	0	0
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	0	4
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	1	3
15	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	...	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	0	1
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	17	13
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	9	5
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	2	2
20	Other Heart Disease	...	11	9
21	Other circulatory Disease	...	3	1
22	Influenza	...	0	0
23	Pneumonia	...	2	4
24	Bronchitis	...	0	0
25	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	1	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	...	1	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	...	0	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	3	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	0	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	...	1	1
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	11	10
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	0	0
34	All Other Accidents	...	0	0
35	Suicide	...	2	0
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	0	0
Total			71	57

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	—	—	—
Measles	30	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	2	—
Tuberculosis (non-P)	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	5	1

The following Table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years.

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1950	2	—	11	—
1951	—	—	22	—
1952	1	—	7	—
1953	—	—	21	—
1954	—	—	8	—
1955	—	—	2	—

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1955

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs	25-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Measles	—	4	7	17	2	—	—	—	—	30
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 5 years		-	-	-		-	-	-
5 to 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 24 years	-	-	-	1		-	-	-
25 to 44 years	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 64 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total ...	4	1	-	1	1	-	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

Year	New Cases			Deaths								
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary						
	Male	Female		Male	Female							
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total						
1950	6	1	7	1	—	1	2	1	3	—	—	—
1951	4	5	9	1	2	3	2	3	5	—	1	1
1952	2	3	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	3	5	8	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954	1	1	2	2	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
1955	4	1	5	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT.

(1) WATER SUPPLY

The water supplies in that part of the Council's Area served by the Weardale Rural District Council were affected by the prolonged drought and requests for the utmost economy were issued.

The Durham County Water Board, who are the Water Authority for the Wolsingham area, supplied all necessary information regarding the emergency measures to be taken in their area of supply.

The following work on mains was carried out in the Council's area of supply:—

Frosterley - Renewal of branch main to Holmefield.

Stanhope - Extension of supply from Keepers Lodge to Noah's Ark Farm, to connect to High House supply.

(2) SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Further interviews were held with the Council's Consulting Engineer, regarding the submission of schemes under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, but owing to the restrictions no progress has yet been made.

Consultations and inspections were carried out in conjunction with the Inspector of the Wear and Tees River Board of new drainage installations and in reference to the pollution of streams.

(3) SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

During the year twelve applicants took advantage of the Council's scheme, allowing a grant of half the cost, up to a maximum of £12, for converting ash closets to the water carriage system. At the end of the year the types of closets were:—

Water Closets	1890
Ashclosets	751
Ash-privies	229

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The vehicles employed on refuse collection number 3 and during the year the estimated weight of refuse removed was 4,886 tons and the mileage covered by the vehicles was 19,830. The total cost of the Cleansing Service for the year was £6,054.

No extensions to the collection areas were made.

Refuse was disposed of at the main tip at Frosterley and also at Cowhill, Rookhope, Edmundbyers, Crawleyside and Tow Law.

(5) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The whole time Rodent Operator was engaged on the treatment of dwellings, business premises and farms, refuse tips, sewer fields and sewers. Treatment was carried out on 186 dwellings, 16 business premises and farms, and 24 other properties (refuse tips, sewer fields). Treatment of the sewers was carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. No charge is made for treatment carried out on private dwellings but work on business premises and farms is chargeable.

(6) SHOPS ACT (Ventilation and Temperature)

Inspections were carried out and no formal action was found necessary.

(7) ICE CREAM REGULATIONS

One application for storage and sale of manufactured ice-cream was received and granted.

(8) SMOKE ABATEMENT

The district has few industries of the type usually associated with smoke nuisance. Inspections were carried out and no action was found necessary.

(9) FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts and defects were remedied in two instances following informal action.

(10) INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspections of the registered slaughter houses were carried out and the state of cleanliness was generally satisfactory.

Visits have also been made to shops and stores in the district.

Food was condemned as unfit for sale on 21 instances (mainly tinned foods) and in each case the food was surrendered voluntarily.

(11) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits undertaken by the Department during the year :—

Infectious Diseases	2
Disinfection of Premises	2
Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	409
Housing (Overcrowding)	11
Sanitary Conveniences	28
Drainage	49
Water Supply	36
Food Premises	51
Shops Acts	40
Dairies etc.	4
Slaughter Houses	22
Tents, Vans etc.	10
Factories and Workplaces	44
Keeping of Animals	2
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	16
Smoke Abatement	4

(12) NUISANCES ETC.

The following table gives the principal nuisances dealt with during the year by means of notices :—

	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects Remedied
Public Health & Housing Acts	6	1	7
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	2	—	2
Drainage	1	—	1
Factories	2	—	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests	2	—	2

(13) HOUSING

Housing inspections were carried out by the Department and the preliminary work on the Council's Slum Clearance Programme was completed.

Under the Council's housing programme 16 new dwelling-houses were erected during the year (8 at Stanhope and 8 at Wolsingham). The total number of houses erected by the Council since 1946 to 31st December, 1955 is 351.

48 houses were under construction at Wolsingham (32), Eastgate (4) and Rookhope (12).

Under private enterprise 3 new dwellings were completed (2 at Wolsingham and 1 at Stanhope).

In connection with applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949, consultations with various owners took place and during the year applications for improvements to 25 houses were approved.

I am,

Yours obediently,

G. A. MACGREGOR.

